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DALTON-in-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1960

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Town Hall,
ULVERSTON.

November, 1961.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1960.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres	8,022
Population - Census, 1951	10,398
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population, mid 1960	10,220
Number of inhabited houses	3,793
Rateable Value	£83,123
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£334.

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is situated in the North Western part of the County of Lancashire adjoining the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the North Lonsdale Rural District of Ulverston. Height above Ordnance Datum varies between 850 feet in the north-east to sea level in the west. There are outcrops of limestone in various parts of the District and in the past there has been extensive mining for iron ore which has left the surface considerably scarred and some of the low lying area flooded with water.

The chief industries are viscose manufacturing, shoe-making, brickworks, clothing manufacture and agriculture, but a large proportion of the male working population is employed in the shipyards and steelworks at Barrow.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for the year 1960 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

167 births were registered, 93 being males and 74 females. 4 males and 1 female were illegitimate.

Approximately 62% of the deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 51, Malignant growths 28 and Vascular lesions of the nervous system 24. Of the 51 deaths from Heart disease, 24 were due to Coronary Artery disease.

YEAR.	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-Natal	
	No. registered.	Rate per 1,000 population	No. registered.	Rate per 1,000 population	No. registered.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1960	167	x16.3	136	x13.3	2	11.8	Nil	Nil	3	18	2	12
1959	154	15.0	139	13.6	1	6.5	Nil	Nil	6	39	5	32.5
1958	158	15.4	143	13.9	5	30.7	Nil	Nil	2	12.7	1	6.3
1957	181	17.6	155	15.0	6	32	Nil	Nil	7	39	6	33
1956	154	14.9	147	14.2	5	31	Nil	Nil	6	39	4	26
1955	148	14.3	141	13.7	2	13	Nil	Nil	6	41	4	27
Average 5 years 1955-59	-	15.4	-	14.1	-	22.6	-	-	-	34.1	-	24.9

x Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.02) = 16.7 per 1,000.

Adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 1.04) = 13.8 per 1,000.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

YEAR.	England and Wales		Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1960	17.1	11.5	16.7	13.8
1959	16.5	11.6	15.3	14.1
1958	16.4	11.7	15.7	14.4
1957	16.1	11.5	17.9	15.6
1956	15.6	11.7	15.3	14.8

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :- J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held :- Medical Officer of Health - Ulverston Urban District Council, Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council, North Lonsdale Rural District Council.

Divisional Medical Officer - Health Division No. 1 Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector :- W.W. JACKSON. C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I. Meat and Other Foods Inspectors Certificate R.S.I. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Other Appointments Held :- Cleansing Superintendent and Housing Manager - Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is provided with water by the Barrow-in-Furness Corporation in mains belonging to the County Borough Council. Dalton is supplied from Poaka Beck Reservoir and Askam from the Ulpha intake of the River Duddon.

The supply was adequate during the year and works to improve the pressure at high level appear to have been successful.

The public supply now serves 3,752 houses direct and the number served by standpipes is now reduced to 9. There are 14 houses supplied from private sources.

SEWERAGE.

The sewage from Dalton is taken to screening tanks near the site of the old gasworks and the effluent is then discharged to the Barrow Corporation sewerage system. The sewage from Askam is passed through screening tanks and the effluent discharged to the Duddon Estuary. Sewage from the hamlets of Newton and Martin passes through settling tanks, the effluent being discharged to streams. Lindal possesses a modern sewage works and full treatment is given, the effluent being discharged into a nearby stream.

During the year 2 privy closets were converted to fresh water closets.

HOUSING.

Property in the District is generally 60-80 years old, terrace type, opening direct on to the street. For the most part the houses are structurally sound, but many are without modern amenities such as baths and hot water system. There is a general lack of damp courses but little evidence of rising dampness. Repairs and improvements are slow to be carried out. A notable feature is the number of houses which are owner/occupied, this is estimated by the Rates Department to be 70% of the total hereditaments. In addition a further 15% are owned by the Council.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

	Houses.	Flats.
(1) By the local authority	11	-
(2) By other local authorities	-	-
(3) By other bodies or persons	7	-

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1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-

(1) (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	126
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	232
(c) No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	87
(2) Total No. of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	15

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2. Houses Demolished.

Houses in Clearance Areas and houses not in Clearance Areas demolished	Nil

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3. Unfit Houses Closed — Nil

4. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	10	Nil
(2) After formal notice under -		
(a) Public Health Acts	15	Nil
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	3	Nil

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957). — Nil

6. Houses in Clearance Areas Purchased by Agreement. — Nil

7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 - Improvement Grants etc. — Nil

8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 - Standard Grants.

Action taken during the year :-	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority	64
(b) Applications approved by Local Authority	64
(c) Work completed	51

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Information regarding the inspection of food, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared are given in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases inspected and condemned within the district.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	52	4	1	97	9
Number Inspected	52	4	1	97	9
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	7.7%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis.					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the five years 1955-1959 compared with the number in 1960.

DISEASE	Number of cases in year					1960		
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet fever	1	4	1	1	3	1	-	-
Measles	22	14	152	36	16	32	-	-
Whooping cough	22	9	13	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	2	2	1	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Pneumonia	1	2	1	2	4	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-
TOTALS	51	30	169	47	25	35	2	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1960.

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
75 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
	5		-		3		-	

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton residents during the past 12 years.

YEARS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1949	10	4	1	4	2	-	2	-
1950	3	7	2	3	3	-	1	1
1951	8	8	2	2	3	-	2	1
1952	4	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
1953	9	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
1954	10	4	1	-	1	1	-	-
1955	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
1956	6	9	-	-	3	-	-	-
1957	4	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
1958	8	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
1959	4	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
1960	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector) :-

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of -		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	9	1	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	19	1	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found :-

PARTICULARS	Found	Remedied	Referred -	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S1)	1	1	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3) ...	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) -				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	-	1
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above-named Acts.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

DALTON-in-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

In presenting this portion of the Annual Report, I am pleased to say that the work of the Health Department and Cleansing Service has proceeded normally and nothing of a serious nature has occurred.

Routine work has again proceeded on a more normal level, except that clerical assistance has to be given in the work of the Surveyor's Department.

As reported last year, the repair of property has eased when compared with recent years but there appears to be a shortage of building trade labour in the town as it is a lengthy business to get repairs carried out.

Eleven Certificates of Disrepair were granted under the Rent Act, 1957, but there does not appear to be any demand for Certificates cancelling those that were issued. It is obvious from enquiries that tenants are quite content to pay the increase in rent provided that the house is properly repaired.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The Council have made sixty-four grants, all of them are what are known as Standard Grants, and whilst the procedure is more simple for the applicants the new scheme entails more work in the Department. This is, however, a circumstance for which we must be satisfied owing to the increased standard of houses which is produced. In fifty-one cases the work was completed and the grants paid. It is again pointed out that landlords are not taking advantage of this scheme, these grants being made to owner/occupiers. None of the work this year resulted in additional accommodation.

MILK SUPPLY.

Arrangements for the testing of milk at Preston appear to be working smoothly and samples are regularly taken month by month for this purpose. The quantity of milk pasteurised at the Barrow Creameries and retailed in this area continues to increase.

ICE CREAM.

There is only one ice cream manufacturer in the area and regular samples are taken and sent to Preston.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

This has been a satisfactory year and no trouble has been experienced at the seven fried fish shops and one Knackers Yard.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Three hundred and ninety two visits were made to the various food shops in the town and I am glad to say that the general standard of cleanliness is very good. The Food Hygiene Regulations, whilst causing considerable amount of work, have been thoroughly beneficial and most of the smaller shops now carry only pre-packed articles of food.

The most noticeable improvements have been in butchers shops and the response to the Food Hygiene Regulations has been most satisfying. The education of food handlers is carried on when visits are made to this class of premises, this being in my opinion the best method of carrying out the work.

The following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

Canned Meats	Canned Fruit
90 lbs.	24/A 2½s.

Canned Milk	Mayonnaise
8 assorted sizes	1 x ¼ fl. ozs.
Flour	**Fish**
12 lbs.	1½ stone.

RODENT CONTROL.

This part-time service continues to give help whenever necessary and to remind people of their responsibilities. A total of 245 premises were visited on one or more occasions and were treated for rats or mice.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

This service continued to operate without undue complaint, the annual holidays being staggered over the summer without employing extra staff, a fact which entails some delay in the collection of refuse but I feel that this is greatly to be preferred than a complete stoppage.

I feel I must comment on the fact that the refuse is disposed of at Elliscales tip by means of crude tipping as has been the case for many years. This is a most undesirable practice and the only thing that can be said in favour of Elliscales tip is its isolation.

There are 11 privies, eight pail closets and five dry ashpits in the area, these being at outlying places.

During the year 106 tons 12 cwts. of waste paper valued at £747.19.0d. and rags valued at £1.16.0d. were disposed of.

The corresponding amounts for the year 1959 were 96 tons 10 cwts. of paper valued at £606.17.0d. and rags valued at £9.

HOUSING.

Since we are now only able to let houses which become empty by reason of the existing tenants leaving, the progress of providing accommodation for those families on the housing list is very slow and the number of cases requiring urgent attention is steadily rising and is causing more and more worry to the Housing Sub-Committee.

The eleven houses in Lord Street were occupied during the year by tenants from property which was the subject of Slum Clearance Action.

The clearance of slum property continues and we are well up to date with the programme submitted to the Central Government some time ago.

In conclusion it gives me great pleasure to put on record the good feelings existing between the various trades of the Town and the Health Department in its activities. My thanks are due to the Health Committee, Medical Officer of Health and other Officers of the Council for their unstinted co-operation and to Mrs. Higg and the Cleansing Staff, without whose assistance the work of the Department cannot successfully go on.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM W. JACKSON.

Public Health Inspector.